

Around the Beltway

Challengers to Moran

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chair Kate Hanley officially announced her candidacy for the Democratic nomination in Virginia's 8th Congressional District last week. Earlier this year, State Sen. Leslie Byrne and area lawyer Jeremy Bash had said they were exploring entering the race.

Another candidate to unseat embattled Rep. Jim Moran has thrown his hat into the ring: Alexandria resident Andy Rosenberg.

Rosenberg, a 35-year-old lawyer with Patton Boggs in the District, said he has "new ideas" and intends to "build coalitions" along the campaign trail.

A member of Agudas Achim Congregation in Alexandria, Rosenberg said that he is "proud to be Jewish" but religion is "irrelevant to his decision." He noted that the incumbent's "comments and actions have upset a lot of people from a variety of backgrounds."

"We need someone to do a better job of representing us," he said.

Some 8th District Democratic activists who would like a change in representation have expressed hope that the primary field would not be too large, fearing that would divide the anti-Moran vote and allow the

incumbent to win. Hanley is considered by many to be the candidate with the best chance of knocking off Moran because of her long record of service in local government.

Rosenberg said that once voters learn about him, he hopes to be "perceived as the most viable challenger."

Frank's Tikkun trouble

Although he still will be speaking at the Tikkun National Teach-In to Congress, Rep. Barney Frank's (D-Mass.) name will no longer be used in publicity for next month's event.

In an interview, the congressman said Tikkun leader Rabbi Michael Lerner has agreed to keep Frank's name out of future advertisements after it appeared in a *New York Times* ad last week that may have led readers to believe he endorsed all of Tikkun's views.

In an interview Tuesday, Frank said that he disagrees with some of the statements in the May 14 advertisement's "A Resolution for Middle East Peace," particularly the idea that a Palestinian state should include the Old City in eastern Jerusalem. Frank said that a resolution like Tikkun's could actually work to "discredit" the "peace process," by creating "unrealistic expectations" on the Palestinian side and insecurity on the Israeli side.

The text-heavy ad included a small disclaimer indicating that "not all speakers agree with all the points made in this ad or in the Resolution," but Frank said that was not sufficient.

Frank said that he still would be speaking at the June 1-4 Capitol Hill conference, emphasizing that he likes to speak to groups with which he disagrees.

Church v. state

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case that could have a major effect on the future of school vouchers.

The state of Washington is appealing a lower court ruling stating that it must provide a scholarship to a student studying theology at a Christian college. The state claims the funding would violate a provision of Washington's constitution, which — going further than the U.S. Constitution — explicitly bans the use of public money for any type of religious worship, exercise or instruction. Thirty-seven other states have similar laws, called Blaine Amendments, after the politician who led the effort to pass the provisions.

Voucher opponents say that the case could wipe away a line of protection against government funding of religious education.

Preserving history

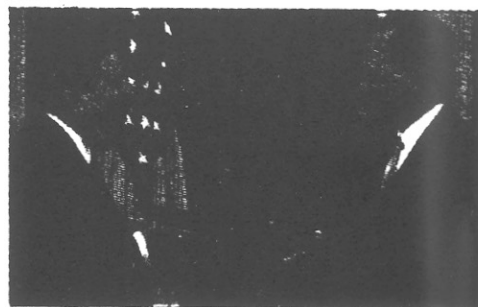
The United States and Germany have signed a pact to preserve sites of historical significance, including those relating to the Holocaust.

The joint declaration, signed Monday at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building next to the White House, also affirms both countries' commitment to preserving the cultural heritage of ethnic and religious groups in the country and to prevent discrimination.

"Today, in the White House, the German and American governments are committing to preserve Jewish burial sites and sites associated with the murder of Jewish people," said U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad chair Warren Miller, who signed the declaration on behalf of the U.S.

Dems: Don't bash Bush

More than 100 Jewish Democratic activists from across the country have sent a letter to all the presidential candidates asking them to endorse the Bush administration's efforts to promote the "road map"



Warren Miller, chair of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, left, and German Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger exchange copies of a joint declaration signed to preserve Holocaust-era sites in Germany.

Photo by Jocelyn Augustino

for Middle East peace.

"As long as the administration remains actively engaged in an effort to implement the Road Map, we ask you not to put obstacles in the way of the President's Mideast peacemaking policies," says the letter, which also urges them to "speak out" if the White House gives the issue a low priority.

Local signatories of the letter, coordinated by the Israel Policy Forum, include Bill Dockser, Sheldon S. Cohen and Hyman Bookbinder. Actor Richard Dreyfuss and American Jewish World Service president Ruth Messinger were among the others who signed the missive.

— by Eric Fingerhut, with reports from Matthew Berger of JTA